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December 11, 1962

## WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

Embassy report dated November 10 stated that:

1) Fidel and Raul Castro are spending most of their time in Oriente Province. Daily business of government is handled principally by President Dorticos, assisted by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Emilio Aragones. Aragones (who is old July 26 Movement supporter of Castro) has reportedly replaced the banished Amilal Escalante as Organizational Secretary of the Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI). Rodriguez is increasingly a key figure within government. His designation to head up delegation now in Moscow to negotiate new economic agreements with USSR bespeaks his importance to Cuban regime.

Strong group within regime headed by Che Guevara and Labor Minister Martinez said be seeking inject new life into revolution and actively to promote its exports to Latin America.

Revivified July 26 Movement of Fidel Castro appears to be based on core of Castro supporters in University of Habana. New core said have objective of excluding communism from the Cuban regime. Embassy believes that new acts on part of July 26 Movement can be expected shortly.

Further group within regime centered in Foreign Ministry appears to be making plans for a shift in Cuban policy from its present position toward position "positive neutralism".

2) Delegation from National Bank reported left recently for Moscow to negotiate modifications of Cuban obligations for the export of sugar to Soviet Union. Soviet acquiescence make available to Cuba greater total sugar for export to Free World.

## 4) Relations

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SIGNED BY *John H. Johnson* DATE *31/12/62*

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Germany (cont'd)

4) Relations between East Germany and Cuba show little change. Cuban regime does not want to isolate itself further and will not break relations with West Germany and establish formal diplomatic relations with East Germany. Chief East German trade relation is usually accorded the same privileges as do the Ambassadors as further move to avoid recognition.

5) Chinese Communist and Albanian affairs have been given good deal of play in the press. Cubans have announced the opening Albanian exhibition. High Chicom official will represent China at the December National Culture Congress. Other communist countries are reportedly not sending ranking officials.

Mikoyan was reportedly angry at increased Cuban contacts with the Chinese and Albania.

6) Embassy expects Cuban renewal of political and ideological action within Latin America once the regime has overcome present internal difficulties.

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